

## CITY OF MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS



Rick Rogers, Interim Principal  
Monique Boudreau, Program Manager

## EARLY LEARNING CENTER

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257 Mountain Ave., Malden, MA 02148  
Phone: (781) 397-7025 or (781) 397-7027  
mboudreau@maldenps.org  
Fax: (781) 321-3495

Email: rrogers@maldenps.org

### ELC School Council Meeting Thursday, May 20, 2021

### MINUTES

#### Members Present:

Nicole Chelman, Heather Cochran, Rebecca Martin, Gregory Marton, Danielle Reilly, Rick Rogers, Imene Bouziane Saidi, Elizabeth Paulsen Tonogbanua

#### Public Comment

- Craig Schneider (Former & Prospective ELC Parent): Mr. Schneider spoke about the need for working parents to have after school programs. He stated his decision to enroll a child at ELC next year was contingent on the availability of after school care.
- Mollie Maxwell (Prospective ECL Parent): Ms. Maxwell also spoke about the need for after school care, as well as full day options for students on IEPs.

#### Approval of [ELC School Council Minutes 04 08 2021](#)

On a motion by Gregory Marton and seconded by Heather Cochran, the minutes were approved.

#### Principal's Report

- After School Program: Rick is aware that parents are seeking to reinstate the afterschool program at the ELC next year. He noted the decision is made at the district level and that parent representatives from the School Council were meeting with the mayor the following day.
- Principal Search Update: An interview committee interviewed 4 candidates selected from among 7 applicants. The committee recommended 3 finalists move on to the next round. One of the finalists withdrew after obtaining another position. The remaining two finalists were not approved for interviews with district administration. The position has been reposted and Rick is seeking clarity for what the process will be going forward. A question was asked about how parents were selected for the interview. The PTO President was asked to represent parents and a paraprofessional who is also a parent was selected in her dual capacity. Rick noted another goal was to be sure the committee reflected the diversity of the Malden community.

- Class Configuration for next year: The Malden School Committee has approved our recommended configuration of 14 ILP classes, 4 Full-Day Integrated PreK and 4 Half-Day Integrated PreK classes – for a total of 22 classrooms (Maximum number). A question was asked about school hours. All classes will return to an 8:00-2:00 schedule next year – with half-day being 8:00-11:00 or 11:30-2:00.
- Displaced Staff: Rick and Director of Human Resources Ashley Pierre met this week with some of the teachers and paraprofessionals who were displaced from the ELC last August when classrooms were eliminated. Teachers who wish to transfer back to ELC will need to have a moderate special needs license to do so. Paraprofessionals will be able to transfer back into open positions, but it will likely not be the exact position they held previously.
- Remote Learning next year: A question was asked about whether there will be remote classes offered next year for parents still concerned about unvaccinated children. At this point, Rick does not believe that a remote option would be approved by the Commissioner, but we will need to wait for additional state guidance.

### **School Improvement Plan Goals & Action Steps**

Rick presented a list of draft goals and possible action steps. Indicators will be completed shortly. The Council each goal, asked questions and offered suggestions as follows:

#### **Anti-Racist & Equity Goal:**

- Teachers appreciated that the action steps grew out of a list of intentions generated by teachers following the professional development in January.
- Question came up about whether inclusivity should be added to this goal – or was it enough that inclusive education is listed elsewhere in the plan.
- Question about why this goal was under School Culture. Suggestion was that this work also involved teaching and learning and home-school connection.
- We agreed to add “Inclusion” to the name of the goal and to repeat this goal under each area – with the action steps appropriate for that area. (e.g. review of books and curriculum under teaching and learning).
- Question about whether an outside person would be brought to help with this work. Rick explained that the new principal would be responsible for planning implementation.

#### **Inclusive Environment Goal**

- Question about where district work on Universal Design for Learning (UDL) fit in at the ELC. UDL is embedded in all we do, but there has been formalized training in this area. Rick suggested that this topic needed further conversation before being added to the plan. Perhaps the first step could be a needs assessment.
- Alignment of PreK and K curriculum: Work has been done a few years ago, but we are recommending that it needs to be revisited with the assistance of K-12 Curriculum Directors. Rick noted that this goal seeks to address that the ELC sometimes feel disconnected from the rest of the district.

#### **Home School Connection Area**

- PTO and School Council should collaborate on these goals next year.
- Concern expressed about the use of the word “celebrate” different cultures. “Affirm” was suggested instead.

The meeting reached its scheduled end time. Rick invited Council members to submit additional feedback and questions via email in the coming days. He will send out an updated version with the indicators added. The final plan is due to the Superintendent by May 31.

**Final Meeting: Thursday, June 10- 2:15-3:15 pm (If necessary)**